

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations  
and is not a part of the Official Record

## **BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES**

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

**IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.**

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,  
please do not report the images to the  
Image Problem Mailbox.**

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A male terminal fitting comprising:

a plate-shaped contact protrusion formed at one side of said male terminal fitting for mating with a female terminal fitting; and

a conductor clamping portion located at the other side of said male terminal for clamping a conductor of an electric wire;

wherein said plate-shaped contact protrusion includes a base plate component longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping portion in an elongated plate shape, an overlapping fold plate component laterally extending from one side of said base plate component and folded to overlap with said base plate component, and a flatness securing plate component overlapping with said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component to ensure flatness conditions of said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component.

2. The male terminal fitting according to claim 1, wherein:

said overlapping fold plate component includes a side plate element upwardly extending from one side of said base plate component in a plane substantially perpendicular to said base plate component, and a top plate element extending from said side plate element in a plane substantially parallel to said base plate component; and

wherein said flatness securing plate component overlaps said base plate component and said top plate element.

3. The male terminal fitting according to claim 2, wherein:

said plate-shaped contact protrusion has a distal end formed with a guide portion composed of substantially rectangular tongues which are bent toward one another.

4. The male terminal fitting according to claim 2, wherein:

said flatness securing plate component, said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component are formed into a substantially roll shape in cross section.

5. The male terminal fitting according to claim 2, wherein:  
said plate-shaped contact protrusion has a distal formed with a tapered  
guide portion.

5

6. A male terminal fitting comprising:  
a plate-shaped contact protrusion formed at one side of said male  
terminal fitting for mating with a female terminal fitting; and  
a conductor clamping portion located at the other side of said male  
terminal fitting for clamping a conductor of an electric wire;  
wherein said plate-shaped contact protrusion includes a base plate  
component longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping portion in  
an elongated plate shape, a first overlapping fold plate component laterally  
extending from one side of said base plate component and folded in one  
direction toward the other end of said base plate component to overlap with  
said base plate component, and a second overlapping fold plate component  
which extends from said first overlapping fold plate component at a position  
close to the other end of said base plate component and which is folded back  
in another direction opposed to said one direction to overlap with said first  
overlapping fold plate component; and  
wherein said first overlapping fold plate component serves as a flatness  
securing plate component to ensure flatness conditions of said base plate  
component and said second overlapping fold plate component.

25

7. The male type terminal fitting according to claim 6, wherein:  
said plate shape contact segment has a distal end formed with a guide  
portion composed of substantially rectangular protrusions which are bent  
toward one another.

30

8. The male terminal fitting according to claim 6, wherein:  
said base plate component and said first and second overlapping fold  
plate components are formed into a substantially S-shape shape in cross  
section.

9. The male terminal fitting according to claim 6, wherein:  
said plate-shape contact protrusion has a distal formed with a tapered  
guide portion.

5       10. A male terminal fitting comprising:  
a plate-shaped contact protrusion formed at one side of said male  
terminal fitting for mating with a female terminal fitting; and  
a conductor clamping portion located at the other side of said male  
terminal fitting for clamping a conductor of an electric wire;

10      wherein said plate-shaped contact protrusion includes a base plate  
component longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping portion in  
an elongated plate shape, a first overlapping fold plate component laterally  
extending from one side of said base plate component and folded in one  
direction toward the other end of said base plate component to overlap with  
said base plate component, and a second overlapping fold plate component  
which extends from the other end of said base plate component and which is  
folded back in another direction opposed to said one direction to overlap with  
said base plate component; and

15      wherein said base plate component serves as a flatness securing plate  
component to ensure flatness conditions of said first and second overlapping  
fold plate components.

20      11. The male terminal fitting according to claim 10, wherein:  
said plate-shaped contact protrusion has a distal end formed with a guide  
portion composed of substantially rectangular tongues which are bent toward  
one another.

25      12. The male terminal fitting according to claim 10, wherein:  
30      said base plate component and said first and second overlapping fold  
plate components are formed into a substantially S-shape shape in cross  
section.

35      13. The male terminal fitting according to claim 10, wherein:  
said plate-shaped contact segment has a distal formed with a tapered

guide portion.

14. A male terminal fitting comprising:

plate-shaped contact means formed at one side of said male terminal fitting for mating with a female terminal fitting; and

conductor clamping means located at the other side of said male terminal fitting for clamping a conductor of an electric wire;

wherein said plate-shaped contact means includes base means longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping means in an elongated plate shape, overlapping fold means laterally extending from one side of said base means and folded to overlap with said base means, and flatness securing means overlapping with said base means and said overlapping fold means to ensure flatness conditions of said base means and said overlapping fold means, respectively.

15. A male terminal fitting comprising:

plate-shaped contact means formed at one side of said male terminal fitting for mating with a female terminal fitting; and

conductor clamping means located at the other side of said male type terminal fitting for clamping a conductor of an electric wire;

wherein said plate shaped contact means includes base means longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping means in an elongated plate shape, first overlapping fold means laterally extending from one side of said base means and folded in one direction toward the other end of said base means to overlap with said base means, and second overlapping fold means which extends from said first overlapping fold means at a position close to the other end of said base means and which is folded back in another direction opposed to said one direction to overlap with said first overlapping fold means; and

wherein said first overlapping fold means serves as flatness securing means to ensure flatness conditions of said base means and said second overlapping fold means.

16. A male terminal fitting comprising:

plate-shaped contact means formed at one side of said male terminal fitting for mating with a female terminal fitting; and

conductor clamping means located at the other side of said male terminal fitting for clamping a conductor of an electric wire;

wherein said plate-shaped contact means includes base means longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping means in an elongated plate shape, first overlapping fold means laterally extending from one side of said base means and folded in one direction toward the other end of said base means to overlap with said base means, and second overlapping fold means which extends from the other end of said base means and which is folded back in another direction opposed to said one direction to overlap with said base means; and

wherein said base means serves as flatness securing means to ensure flatness conditions of said first and second overlapping fold means, respectively.

17. A method of manufacturing a male terminal fitting, said method comprising:

preparing a blank sheet of elongated conductive metal sheet;  
stamping said elongated conductive metal sheet to form a plurality of sequentially arrayed terminal fittings, in developed states, which are integrally connected to a carrier, each of said terminal fittings including a conductor clamping portion extending from said carrier, a clamping body connected to said conductor clamping portion, and a plate-shaped contact protrusion which is composed of a base plate component longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping portion via said clamping body, a flatness securing plate component laterally extending from one side of said base plate component, and an overlapping fold plate component laterally extending from the other side of said base plate; and

forming said conductor clamping portion, said clamping body and said plate-shaped contact protrusion into respective final shapes;

wherein, after said forming step, said flatness securing plate overlaps with said overlapping fold plate component to ensure flatness conditions of said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component.

18. A method of manufacturing a male terminal fitting, said method comprising:

5 preparing a blank sheet of elongated conductive metal sheet;

stamping said elongated conductive metal sheet to form a plurality of sequentially arrayed terminal fittings, in developed states, which are integrally connected to a carrier, each of said terminal fittings including a conductor clamping portion extending from said carrier, a clamping body connected to said conductor clamping portion, and a plate-shaped contact protrusion which is composed of a base plate component longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping portion via said clamping body, a first overlapping fold plate component laterally extending from one side of said base plate component, and a second overlapping fold plate component laterally extending from the other side of said base plate; and

10 forming said conductor clamping portion, said clamping body band said plate shape contact segment into respective final shapes;

15 wherein, after said forming step, said base plate component overlaps with said first and second overlapping fold plate components and serves as a flatness securing plate component to ensure flatness conditions of base plate component and said first and second overlapping plate components.

20 19. A method of manufacturing a male terminal fitting, said method comprising:

25 preparing a blank sheet of elongated conductive metal sheet;

stamping said elongated conductive metal sheet to form a plurality of sequentially arrayed terminal fittings, in developed states, which are integrally connected to a carrier, each of said terminal fittings including a conductor clamping portion extending from said carrier, a clamping body connected to said connecting segment, and a plate-shaped contact protrusion which is composed of a base plate component longitudinally extending from said conductor clamping portion via said clamping body, a flatness securing plate component laterally extending from one side of said base plate component, and an overlapping plate component laterally extending from the other side of said base plate; and

forming said conductor clamping portion, said clamping body band said plate-shaped contact protrusion into respective final shapes;

wherein, after said forming step, said flatness securing plate component overlaps with said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component to ensure flatness conditions of said base plate component and said overlapping fold plate component, respectively.

5

Add A'